

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /072 W

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R 021900Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8754

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0260

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, TD

SUBJECT: INDIAN NATIONAL DAY UTILIZED FOR DENUNCIATIONS

OF U.S.

REF: CFR NO. 4, ITEM 8, 28 JAN 76

1. INDIAN NATIONAL DAY JAN 26 WAS COMMEMORATED IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WITH FULL TWO-PAGE SPECIAL SPREADS IN BOTH MORNING PAPERS IN PORT OF SPAIN. SUCH SPECIAL PAID SUPPLEMENTS ARE NOT UNCOMMON HERE FOR SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS. INDIAN SUPPLEMENT, HOWEVER, DEPARTED FROM TRADITION TO FEATURE LONG ARTICLE DENOUNCING USG EFFORTS TO "DESTABILIZE" INDIA.

2. ARTICLE (BY GRISH MATHUR) NEVER MENTIONED USG BY NAME, BUT THERE WAS NO DOUBT LEFT IN THE READERS' MINDS THAT IT WAS THE U.S. WHICH WAS ACCUSED OF "EXCESSIVE AND DANGEROUS PRESSURES ON US", CIA MURDER OF LEADERSHIPS "IN A HOST" OF COUNTRIES, "NEO-COLONIALIST DESTABILIZATION," ENCOURAGEMENT OF "OPPOSITION ELEMENTS," AND "COVERT OPERATIONS" IN INDIA. THE ARTICLE DISMISSED THOSE WHO WOULD ASK FOR ANY PROOF OF THESE CHARGES AND AFFIRMED THAT "A CLOSE LOOK AT THE PATTERN OF DEVELOPMENTS IN

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THE REGION SHOULD LEAVE NO DOUBT." THE ARTICLE LIBERALLY

QUOTED FROM PRIME MINISTER IINDIRA GANDHI.

3. I COMMENTED TO INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER DR. BARAKAT AHMAD AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION THE SAME DAY THAT I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND SUCH AN ATTACK ON A FRIENDLY COUNTRY CONTAINED IN INDIAN NATIONAL DAY FEATURES, PARTICULARLY SINCE THESE ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND DELHI. AHMAD, WHO HERETOFORE I HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE RESPECT FOR, ATTEMPTED TO DISOWN ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ARTICLE AND COMPARED IT TO THE FREEDOM OF THE NEW YORK TIMES TO PUBLISH "ANTI-INDIAN ARTICLES." HE ATTRIBUTED THE PRESS SUPPLEMENT VAGUELY TO THE "INDIAN COMMUNITY." THIS WAS PATENTLY A DODGE, HOWEVER, FOR AT THE SAME RECEPTION I ASKED THE PUBLISHER OF THE MAJOR MORNING DAILY PAPER WHO HAD PROVIDED THE TEXTUAL MATERIAL FOR THE INDIAN FEATURES. HE CONFIRMED THAT THESE HAD COME DIRECTLY FROM THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION.

4. COMMENT: THIS KIND OF ATTACK ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A VENUE IS NOT EXPECTED HERE AND CAN ONLY BE INTERPRETED AS A CALCUALTED INDIAN INSULT.

RICH

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